

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendments filed October 10, 2008. In the instant amendment, claims 3 and 5 have been amended.
2. The object to the specification is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.
3. Claims 3, 5, 6, 15, 16, and 19 have been examined, and all remained pending claims now are being allowed (renumbered 1-6).

Examiner's Amendments

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
5. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Cornish (the Inventor) on November 25, 2008, for cancelling previously withdrawn claims 2, 8, and 20, obviating any potential 35 USC section 112, second paragraph issue, and putting the claims in condition for allowance.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2, 8, and 20 are canceled, and claims 3 and 5 are amended as follows:

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended),

In line 33, replacing "values." by - -values;- -

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

In line 1, underlying number 3 as - 3- -

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Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Canceled)

- - End - -

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

6. As Applicants pointed out in the Remarks, the prior art of record (Omoigui and Popa) do not disclose and/or fairly suggest at least claimed limitations:

"...(m) wherein said planning means comprises: i. selecting which clauses of said specification will generate which variable values, by first selecting clauses which generate the minimum number of different values, whereby other clauses will be less frequently re-evaluated during execution",

which are incorporated into other limitations in independent claim 3 as a whole (Remarks, page 16).

These claimed limitations are not present in the prior art of record and would not have been obvious, thus all pending claims are allowed.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thuy Dao (Twee), whose telephone/fax numbers are (571) 272 8570 and (571) 273 8570, respectively. The examiner can normally be reached on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached at (571) 272 3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Thuy Dao/

Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192